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Sixty-second session
Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 4 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of a devastating terrorist attack that took place today in Israel.

Early this morning, two Palestinian terrorists carried out a suicide attack against Israeli civilians at a shopping mall in the southern town of Dimona. One Israeli civilian was killed and 11 others were wounded, among them one critically and two moderately. The two terrorists were killed during the course of the attack; the first terrorist detonated and killed himself, causing the initial explosion, and the second terrorist was killed by an alert police officer, who thwarted that terrorist from detonating a second bomb as rescuers arrived at the scene to assist the wounded.

This alarming and fatal act of Palestinian terrorism demonstrates very clearly what the terrorist organizations stand for and what they are trying to accomplish. Like the daily Qassam rocket attacks, this terrorist attack was deliberately targeted at civilians, with the express purpose of maiming and murdering them. Moreover, the second terrorist waited specifically until rescue workers arrived to attempt to detonate his bomb. If not for the heroism of the police officer, the terrorists would have succeeded in killing countless others.

My delegation has previously written about the urgent need for an end to all Palestinian violence and terrorism against Israel. As this terrorist attack shows yet again, Palestinian terrorism remains the greatest obstacle to peace and security in the region. The Palestinian leadership must stop the violence, dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, end the cycle of impunity and bring the terrorists to justice. Furthermore, Israel urges ali States to adhere to their international obligations, in particular, Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which calls on all States to "prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups" and to refrain from supporting them.

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Israel will continue to defend itself and its citizens, as any other sovereign nation would, as is its right under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Identical letters dated 4 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write in connection to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Cuba, in his capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 31 January 2008 (S/2008/62), and circulated thereafter to the United Nations membership.

As in previous letters to the Security Council, my delegation has repeatedly warned about the escalation of Palestinian terrorist activity from the Gaza Strip and frequency of attacks against Israel. The facts on the ground clearly show that Hamas bears sole responsibility for the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip. It is Hamas' pursuit of terrorism and indiscriminate rocket fire that make security measures taken in self-defence to protect civilians, as is Israel's right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, a necessity. Moreover, Hamas has chosen to divert fuel and resources in the Gaza Strip from civilians in order to manufacture more rockets. Similarly, Hamas fires on the crossing points into Gaza and abuses humanitarian convoys to smuggle weapons. In doing so, Hamas clearly — and cynically — has created a situation for the very people it purports to care for. Yet the statement circulated by the Non-Aligned Movement Chairman levelled all criticism against Israel and expressed no concern for Israel's civilians.

Excellency, I assure you that my delegation has no interest in ridiculing or distorting the positions of any Member State, either adopted independently or as a group, as the aforementioned letter alleges. Indeed, in our letter to you (A/62/667-S/2008/55) dated 28 January, we made clear that Israel believes that responsible members of the international community can play a constructive role by supporting the bilateral process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. But that support means that Member States should take a balanced approach to the conflict. Embracing one-sided narratives as the statement circulated by the Non-Aligned

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Movement Chairman does, particularly when Israeli security concerns are wholly ignored and even trivialized, will not advance the prospects for peace.

Moreover, numerous members of the Council affiliated with the Non-Aligned Movement in their national statements, as well as other Non-Aligned Movement members in bilateral meetings with our Mission, have recognized the legitimacy of the Israeli position regarding terrorist attacks and condemned — in no uncertain terms — the indiscriminate rocket fire by Palestinian terrorists. These Non-Aligned Movement members have expressed their understanding that Hamas is liable for its actions and Israel has an inherent right to defend itself from these attacks. In the light of this, my delegation felt it necessary to point out the potentially deleterious effects of the statement circulated by the Non-Aligned Movement Chairman, and underscore how it failed to reflect the reality on the ground.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 4 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that, on 3 February 2008 at 1930 hours, Israeli enemy forces opened fire towards the outskirts of the town of al-Wazzani from their positions in the occupied part of the village of al-Ghajar, which led to the killing of a Lebanese citizen, 'Abdullah al-Muhammad, and the wounding of another citizen, Salim al-Qubaysi. This attack was accompanied by the firing of flare shells in Lebanese airspace. These events have been confirmed by the joint committee formed by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese Army in order to consider this aggression.

My Government considers this act to be a flagrant attack on the sovereignty of my country and a serious breach of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It should be condemned in the strongest possible terms on the basis of the principles and provisions of international law and customs.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Note verbale dated 5 February 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from its Government, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and wishes to draw the Council members' attention to the following message from the Chadian Government:

> "There is a real risk that the situation in Chad will be further aggravated by new armed attacks from the Sudan aimed at overthrowing democratically established institutions, in flagrant violation of international law and of the statement adopted and issued by the Council on 4 February 2008 (S/PRST/2008/3). It is unacceptable for the Sudan to continue to flout the sacrosanct principles contained in the Charter of the African Union and the Charter of the United Nations, going so far as to defy these organizations once again by refusing to abide by their resolutions and decisions.
>
> "These new armed attacks began two days ago in the localities of Adé and Adré, from the direction of the Sudanese border, and threaten to compromise all efforts to find a solution to the aggression being perpetrated against Chad. It is therefore extremely urgent for the Security Council to take up this matter once again, with a view to putting an immediate end to this aggression."

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations requests that this note be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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